THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The price situation prevailing in the country is reviewed periodically. Based on this review, policy measures are taken to control the rate of inflation. The principal disinflationary policies are a reduction in the fiscal deficit and control of excess liquidity. Government also ,take steps to augment public distribution supplies, regulate market releases of sugar and arrange import of essential commodities as and when the situation demands.

Cheaper Credit to Fishing Industry

2277. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is vast scope for increasing foreign exchange earnings from export of Fish and Fish products which has shown tremendous increase in exports; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to provide cheaper credit for acquiring fishing vessels, setting up of processing facilities and dutyfree import of equipments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is vast scope for increasing foreign exchange earnings from export of fish and fish products.

(b) The Government of India has been extending several concessions to the deep sea fishing industry, including subsidy of upto 33% the cost of indigenously constructed vessels; loans at subsidised interest rates for acquisition of fishing vessels; diesel subsidy of Rs. 1.6 per litre of fuel consumed or 10% of the FOB value of exports, whichever is less; duty free imports for inputs; and other benefits as applicable to export oriented units. Further, under the Scheme for processing tuna and other fish, grant-in-aid is provided upto 50% of the capital cost.

Refund of money to applicants of Public Issues

2278. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are aware that most of the companies listed with the stock exchanges are showing some amount of balance to be refunded to the applicants to the public issues;

(b) Whether Governmen* are also aware that there are large scale complaints from investors about non-receipt of application money/refund orders;

(c) Whether *Government* have revised any way to dislodge such refundable amount from the companies after some specified period and place the same before the SEBI or with the Mutual Funds for proper utilisation of the investors money till settlement of the disputed refund cases of investors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) yes, Sir. In respect of public issues of securities by companies which are over-subscribed the excess application money is required to be refunded to the applicants as per the provisions of section 73 of the Companies Act 1956. However Government are aware of complaints about non-receipt of application money/refund orders from several companies.

(c) and (d) The Companies Act 1956 contains provisions governing refund of excess application money by companies to applicants. However, in view of the complaints, a Stockinvest scheme has been devised to protect the interests of applicants.

Tax Exemption as Incentive to Create Sports Infrastructure

2279. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide

incentives to the Industry in the form of tax exemptions, for the creation of sports infrastructure and for other sports activities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Suggestions have been received for allowing deduction for advertisement expenses incurred for sports promotion and to treat contributions to sports promotion on par with contributions for research in social sciences and statistical research. Moreover, extension of the scope of section 35AC, under which contributions for eligible projects or schemes for the *social* and economic welfare of or the uplift of the public or direct expenditure by companies on such projects or schemes are entitled to deduction, has been sought for sports activities.

उत्तर प्रदेश में कृषि के लिए सांस्थानिक ऋण

2280. **श्री चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह** : क्या वित्त मंत्री गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश में जिले-वार कृषि के लिए दिए गए सांस्थानिक ऋण संबंधी ब्यौरे बताने की कृपा करेंगे ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलबीर सिंह) : आंकड़ा सूचना प्रणाली से प्रश्न में पूछे गए ढंग से सूचना प्राप्त नहीं होती है। तथापि, सितम्बर, 1989, मार्च 1990 और मार्च 1991 (अद्यतन उपलब्ध) के अन्त की स्थिति के अनुसार उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य में सभी अनुसूचित वाणिज्यिक बैंकों द्वारा कृषि क्षेत्र को दिए गए अग्रिमों की बकाया राशि निम्न-लिखित थी :—

(करोड रुपए)

वर्ष	राशि
1	2
सितम्बर, 1989	146
मार्च, 1990	172
मार्च , 1991	190

Hardship faced by Fishing Vessels in Goa

2281. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be* pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of acute hardship faced by small fishing vessels in Goa, as they are compelled to obtain N.O.C. permits from customs for two to three weeks;

(b) if so, whether this practice is in force through-out the country; and

(c) if so, when these directives were issued and what steps Government propose to take to avoid the inconvenience to the trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) No instance of acute hardship faced by small fishing vessels in Goa, in obtaining N.O.C. permit from Customs has been re ported. However, most of the difficulties/ inconveniences faced were resolved by the Customs Collectorate, Goa in a recent meeting held on 16-11-92 with Boat Ow ners Association/various Cooperative Societies. The Customs are, at present. issuing fishing Passes to different catego ries of fishing vessels, the validity of which is as under :—

(i) For non-mechanised fishing vessels—21 Days

(ii) For mechanised fishing vessels—15 Days

(iii) For fishing trawlers (both small and large)—35 Days

This practice is in force throughout the country'.

(c) The instructions for fixing the above periodicity for renewal of fishing passes were issued on 1-1-79 with a view to rationalising the periodicity for the renewal of fishing pusses. To further simplify the procedure at Goa for convenience of trade, the Collecctorate has accepted the following' suggestions made by the Boat Owners Association /Cooperative Societies in a recent meeting on 16-11-92 :—

(i) there would be no compulsion for supply of photographs of crew members except that of a tindel;